GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1358
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
BLOOD DONATION
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to put in place a mechanism whereby people donating blood are informed in case their sample is found to be HIV positive;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to change the management of the State Blood Transfusion Councils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The National Blood Policy adopted by the Government in April, 2002 envisages that the HIV status of such blood donors who want to know their result should be revealed by referring them to the linked Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centers for confirming their HIV status and accompanied by pre and post donation counselling.

Specific linkages between blood banks and voluntary counselling and testing centres are being identified and strengthened by the state blood transfusion councils in a phased manner.

(c)&(d): The Action Plan to operationalise the National BloodPolicy places the responsibility on State Blood Transfusion Councils to implement it in their respective States.

The State Blood Transfusion Council will develop distinct identities to become an autonomous body drawing members from the government, blood transfusion services, clinical doctors, Red Cross, NGO representatives and donor organisers.

The Directors of Health Services in the state shall be active members of the State Blood Transfusion Council.The resources and infrastructure available to the State Directors of Health Services will smoothen both technical and administrative impediments in the functioning of the State Blood Transfusion Councils.

The State Blood Transfusion Councils will develop their own state specific action plans within the overall ambit of the National Action Plan to provide integrated and coordinated management to the blood transfusion services within their respective State/UTs with active participation of all stakeholders.